Title: Problem being faced by the chilli growers in the country.

SHRI P. MOHAN (MADURAI): The peasants who produced chillies are now facing a crisis. In Tamil Nadu, about 1,75,000 peasants are cultivating chillies in 27 districts. Especially in Ramanathapuram and Tuticorin districts, chillies are cultivated in 50,000 acres of land and about one lakh families are depending on chilly cultivation. This month is the harvesting month for chillies. Generally, in this month, the price of chillies would be about Rs.20 per kg. But in this year, there was a crisis and the price of chillies has fallen. So far, the Central Government did not announce supporting price for it. Neither the National Cooperative Marketing Federation nor did any other organisation take any steps to purchase the chillies produced by the peasants.

The production cost of chillies would be Rs.10,000 per acre. At this juncture, the peasants are the worst affected, due to the fall in the price of chillies. Now, the price of chillies has come down to Rs. 2 per kg. Hence, the Central Government should come forward to protect the peasants who cultivated chillies in Tamil Nadu and take necessary steps to purchase the chillies giving a support price and to provide assistance to the peasants who are affected completely due to rain and other natural calamities from the National Disaster Fund. .. *Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Radhakrishnan.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (CHIRAYINKIL): How can I speak when there is so much noise in the House? ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Have you got something in writing?

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You may give it in writing.

...(*Interruptions*)